

COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF  
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 23-036

Introduced by Council President Patrick Vincenti at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 23-030 Date November 21, 2023

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Article XVI, Human Relations Commission, of Part 2, Nonbinding Advisory Boards, of Chapter 9, Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies, of the Harford County Code; as amended; to correct the membership consistent with the Harford County Charter; and generally relating to the Human Relations Commission.

By the Council, November 21, 2023

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled:

on: December 19, 2023

at: 6:45 PM

By Order: *Nyelia A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on \_\_\_\_\_, and concluded on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

1 WHEREAS, the Human Relations Commission is created pursuant to Section 411 of the  
2 Harford County Charter; and

3 WHEREAS, Section 411(a) of the Charter requires that fifteen qualified voters of the County  
4 serve on the Commission; and

5 WHEREAS, there are no provisions in the State or County law making a student 16 to 18 years  
6 of age a qualified voter; and

7 WHEREAS, Chapter 9, Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies, Part 2, Nonbinding  
8 Advisory Boards, Article XVI, Human Relations Commission, of the Harford County Code, was  
9 amended in its entirety by Bill No. 12-10 and became law on March 22, 2012; and

10 WHEREAS, the passage of Bill 12-10 changed the membership of the Human Relations  
11 Commission to include, “14 qualified voters of the County and one member who is a current County  
12 student 16 through 18 years of age”; and

13 WHEREAS, no Charter amendment ever was proposed or lawfully adopted to amend Charter  
14 Section 411(a); and

15 WHEREAS, this Bill amends the unlawful provision in the Harford County Code so that the  
16 Code complies with the Charter;

17 NOW THEREFORE,

18 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Article XVI,  
19 Human Relations Commission, of Part 2, Nonbinding Advisory Boards, of Chapter 9, Boards,  
20 Commissions, Councils and Agencies, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby,  
21 repealed and reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

22 **Chapter 9. Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies**

23 **Part 2. Nonbinding Advisory Boards**

**Article XVI. Human Relations Commission**

**§ 9-101. Creation; membership.**

A. There shall be a Human Relations Commission consisting of [the following members:

(1) Fourteen qualified voters of the County; and

(2) One member who is a current County student 16 through 18 years of age.] FIFTEEN (15)

**QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE COUNTY.**

B. The County Executive shall designate a [non-student] member of the Commission as Chairperson.

**§ 9-102. Terms; vacancies; removal.**

A. Members of the Human Relations Commission shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

B. [Non-student, qualified voting members as set forth in Subsection 9-101A(1) above] MEMBERS shall be appointed for terms co-terminous with the County Executive.

[C. Student members as set forth in Subsection 9-101A(2) above shall be appointed for a 1-year term.]

[D.]C. Members of the Human Relations Commission shall be selected to represent all segments of the County population.

[E.]D. Vacancies for all members shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner of original appointment.

[F.]E. Each member shall serve until his or her successor is appointed and qualified.

[G.]F. A member may be removed only for cause by the County Executive subject to approval by the County Council.

[H.]G. Any member missing 3 or more consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have terminated his

1 or her membership on the Human Relations Commission, unless the Commission shall, by a  
2 majority vote, excuse one or more of the absences.

3 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date  
4 it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE:

*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that  
seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for  
distribution to the public and the press.*



Council Administrator